



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor's Faith Initiative Addiction & Recovery Free Workshop Sept. 8

Mental Health, Addiction Prevention And Recovery Professionals Will Share Their Expertise

Professionals from the mental health, addiction prevention and recovery communities will host an educational workshop for invited members of the faith community and interested members of the public **Thursday, Sept. 8, at Las Vegas City Hall. This interfaith workshop, "Let's Start the Conversation — Addiction & Recovery: Finding a Foundation in Faith," is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in second-floor Council Chambers at 495 S. Main St.** The workshop, sponsored by the Foundation for Recovery, is intended to educate and build collaboration among those trying to help recovering addicts. Parking is available in the covered garage across the street at 500 S. Main St. A resource fair of local agencies, networking and a continental breakfast will be available at 8 a.m. **Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman will meet and greet participants at 8:10 a.m.**

Mel Pohl, M.D., medical director of the Las Vegas Recovery Center, will deliver the keynote address at 10 a.m. The event will include additional distinguished guest speakers, presenters and panel members from a diverse cross-section of service providers, including:

- Greg Pergament, author of Chi Kung in Recovery and leader of Desert Dharma, a Buddhist 12-step group;
- Bea Aikens, gambling addiction expert and founder of Lanie's Hope;
- Las Vegas Mayor Pro Tem Steven D. Ross;
- Pastor Rodney Holmstrum, West Coast director of Celebrate Recovery, a national faith-based, 12-step program;
- Rabbi Mark Borovitz, author of "Finding Yourself in Torah: A Spiritual Path to Wholeness";
- Mujahid Ramadan, former Nevada State Drug Policy director and advisor to the President's Faith Community Initiative; and
- Helen Williams, minister and faith recovery advocate.

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Lunch will be provided. The event is supported by the city of Las Vegas, CARE Coalition, PACT Coalition, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, and the Mayor's Faith Initiative Addictions Workgroup. Space is limited. **Those adults who wish to participate should RSVP to CGORDON@FORRECOVERY.ORG by Sept. 6.**

In the spring of 2012, more than 120 faith leaders representing 70,000-plus congregants from the Las Vegas valley houses of worship responded to the mayor's invitation to help change the city through faith in action. These faith leaders, and executive team members of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, identified the following as key community issues affecting their congregations. In order of priority, the issues are: Addiction, Strengthening the family, Jobs, Education, Homelessness and Human trafficking. Work groups were then formed in each of these six topic areas. Members began meeting in August 2012 to move ideas into actions. In 2013, the Youth Issues Team/NEON Community Parent Teacher Student Association was formed to address issues with children and youth. The efforts continue. For more information on participating in the Mayor's Faith Initiative, contact Lori Lopez at 702-229-5421.

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